

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Thursday, May 9. 1706.

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**W**E are now in Suspences on the Events of Accounts abroad, for Want of a Post from *Germany* and *Spain*.

Great Events are now a'fing, and some issued out on the Stage of the World, and we yet know not which way our Fate is Determin'd.— We are now something like a Man on his Tryal, and the Jury withdraw to consider, whether he shall die or live.

Without all doubt, there are three great and most important Articles of the present War, and on which much of the general Safety depend, already Determin'd, tho' we know nothing of it.

1. The Siege of *Barcelona*. 2. The March of the *Portuguese* Army to *Madrid*. 3. The attacking the *German* Army and Lines at *Hagenau*.

I think, I may venture to affirm, that Sir *John Leake*, with his Fleet or some other Accident, has rais'd the Siege of *Barcelona*, or the Town is taken before now ; it is five Weeks and upward since the *French* came before it, and if they push'd the Siege on with their usual Fury and Vigour, tho' the Garrison have done *even more than could be expected from them*, it can hardly hold out till now.—How it is we know not ; but this we know, that nothing but contrary Winds, nothing but the immediate Finger of Providence can have made the Sailing of Sir *John Leake* to its Relief, improbable ; and if that has interven'd, we ought to submit.

If the Seige is rais'd, the Game's up for *Spain* ; and I believe, we may, without a Charge of Presumption, expect a pretty good

good Account of that Kingdom by the End of the Year.

The next depending Article is the March of the E. of *Galway* for *Madrid*. The *Spaniards* with an unaccountable Contempt of the *Portuguese*, left their Frontiers on that side so naked, that it was almost enough to give us some Suspicion of an Intelligence held there, and that they had some more than ordinary Assurance, that the *Portuguese* would not hurt them.

Sure the *Spaniards* in their mean Opinion of the *Portuguese* forgot, That Cowards, supposing the *Portuguese* to be such, are never so brave, as when there is no body to oppose them, that nothing would push them forward into *Spain*, like the Knowledge of their Troops being gone out of the Way.

If the *Spaniards* presum'd the Earl of *Galway* could no more fight without his Hands, than another certain General without his Head; they had also forgot, that 'tis the Head of the General, and the Hands of a Soldier that gain a Victory, the greatest Commander on Earth can do no more with his Hands than an ordinary Man, his Pistols will kill no farther, his Bullet no more mortal, nor in his Arm stronger than a private Trooper. Our Wars are not manag'd as of old, the Duke of *Marlborough* and *Monf. Tallard* did not fight like *Hector* and *Achilles* at the Siege of *Troy*: My Lord *Galway* is as much a Match for the Duke of *Berwick* without his Hand or with it, to do, or to cause to be done is the same part of Speech, in the Language of the War, and my Lord *Galway* will not miss his Hand in his March to *Madrid*.

If the *Spaniards* did not know this, they may perhaps be taught it now to their Cost; for my part it seems to me to be something like an Infatuation, that they should so mistake, especially considering them as acted by *French* Councils, which really do not use to blunder at such a Rate.

Some indeed say, Necessity drove them to it, and it is the most honourable Retreat the King of *Spain* could make, — and I have a Letter from a Gentleman out of *Herfordshire*, which assumes the positive in this

Case, and tells me directly, *Philip V.* shall never see *Madrid* more. I know not what Revelation this Person pretends to; but I must own, he was equally positive some Monks before it happen'd, that the Duke of *Marlborough* should march to the *Danube*, overthrow the conjoin'd Forces of the *French* and *Bavarians*, and drive them both out of the Country.

I know not what to say to these positive Men, but this I say, that to me it seems, as if neither King *Philip* nor his Grandfather ever design'd he should return to *Madrid*, they would certainly never have taken this Step; for I think I may say, had King *Philip*, with but the same Army with which he now besieges *Barcelona*, advanc'd into the Heart of *Portugal*, he had broke all our Measures, and might by this time, with more Ease than we imagine, have been at the the Gates of *Lisbon*, and perhaps within the Gates too.

Never was Kingdom, great, wealthy and strong, as *Spain* is, in its self consider'd, tho' in other Respects poor, so bullied and kept at Bay by a handful of People, and by a Kingdom, not much bigger than some of its single Provinces. Twenty thousand *French* would have immediately over-run *Portugal*, and the Sum of the Matter had been over. The *Portuguese* have no Force, no not inclusive of the Aid we have sent, that could have look'd them in the Face. This had certainly been the Way to have ended the War on that side, and the Terror of it would have prevented all the Progress of Invasions, on the other, effectually crush'd the Expectations of Insurrections and Revolts, and all the rest would have been recovered of Course; what if the Siege of *Turin* had been put off for one Season, and 20000 Men spar'd for one Campaign, this had been like *Scipio's* invading *Carthage*, while *Hannibal* was in *Italy*. We must certainly have recall'd my Lord *Peterborough*, or at least all our Supplies must ha' been diverted to *Portugal*, or the *Portuguese* must have made his Peace without us, and gone off to the Enemy.

But Providence has not thought fit to let the *French* be so wise at this time; in which



I must say, they have open'd a Door of Conquest for you, which you could never have expected; they have (as it were) held out the Crown of *Spain* to you, and bid you take it; and I make no doubt, but my *Ld. Galway* has accepted the Invitation, or if he has not, I dare say 'tis none of his Fault.

If he is Master of *Madrid*, I leave the Consequences of that to be farther entred upon in some of our next, when we hear how it is, and what farther Progress is made in that March; which, whatever it is, without Question is over before now.

The third material Article now depending, is the March of the *French* upon the *Upper-Rhine*.

I presume, I need not acquaint the Reader, that at the End of the last Campaign, Prince *Lewis of Baden*, after all our Clamours of being Frenchified, and I know not what, tho' he came late into the Field, made a better Campaign, than we that were there before him, and better than was expected — not but that the Duke of *Marlborough* had a Hand in his Successes too, by keeping the Army in *Flanders* together to an unusual Length of Time, that the *French* might not be able to make any Detachments to the *Rhine* to succour their Troops there.

In this Interval, the Imperialists took *Drusenheim*, *Haguenau*, and several advanced Posts, which enabled them to secure a Footing in *Alsace*, and take up their Winter Quarters on this side the *Rhine*.

As this has been a thing the Imperialist could never do before, no not tho' the Duke of *Lorraine* took *Mentz* and *Bonn* both in a Summer; so it has been very uneasy to the *French*, it has intercepted their Communication, laid all the Country under heavy Contributions, and block'd up *Fort Louis*, which we flatter'd our selves must fall into our Hands, being reduc'd almost to the last Extremity.

But as the *Germans* have never been able to deal with the *French*, meerly by Reason of their ill concerted Preparations; so it is now. We find the *French* under the Mar-

shal *de Villars* in full March with 40000 Men to fall upon the *Germans*, and Marshal *Marsin* with 15000 Men more, marches with the utmost Expedition from the *Moselle* to assist him.

To oppose all this Force, we are told the Strength of the Empire does not exceed 20000 Men, the Troops of *Suabia*, *Franconia*, *Hesse* and *Prussia* are not come up. No Magazines erected to subliſt them, if they were; and all things on that side look very ill.

'Tis the Fate of the Empire to be the dead Weight of this War, and I see nothing can relieve her but some *Coup de Eclat*, to be struck on some other side; and for that we find the Armies yet altogether unprepared, the Troops of the Allies being but now drawing into the Field, when the *French* are already upon Action.

This is the Unhappineſs of the Confederacy, and this the Method, by which the King of *France* in former Times carried on his mighty Progresses upon the *Spaniards* and *Imperialists*, by getting into the Field before them, and by some Surprise, before they could be got together, cut them out Work for the whole Campaign, and then be upon the Defensive, and look on upon them.

Let him blame them that can, for my part I only wish we had the like Opportunity to do the same; and I doubt not the Duke of *Marlborough*, who always has a Party-War to settle before he can get into the Field, would easily convince the World, that the Superiority of his Troops is not an Advantage given him to no purpose.

I confess, I expect no good News from the *Rhine*, and tho' Prince *Lewis of Baden* is a great Man, and an experienc'd General, yet if I judge Right, or have any true Information of things, the utmost we are to expect from him, is to make a good Retreat, abandon the Lines and Town of *Haguenau*, raise the Blockade of *Fort Louis*; and if possible, encamp under the Cannon of *Landau*, and thereby save his Army from any fatal Disgrace, and save the Town from another Siege.

If .

If he comes off thus, I shall think it a good Escape, and all the *French* may get by their Forwardness, may be lost again with the same Haste, and the Scale may turn again with the same Advantage.

But if the *French* should push him farther, and, as we see they have a desperate Game to play, should play it with a Boldness suited to the Necessity, I know not what can stand before them, and must leave my farther Conjectures to Time.

I have brought my Observations of Matters now to the third main Head which I proposed, *Viz.* The Union of *Scotland*, which as it is now on a Treaty, and a Treaty which some People are very apprehensive, should take Effect; I think I cannot better employ this Work than, hand in hand with the Proceedings, apply my self *not to the Treaty*, my Lords the Commissioners used none of my Help that way, but to remove the vulgar Obstructions which are industriously thrown in the way; and if possible, incline all Parties to a Union of Nations, that we may be henceforth one powerful Nation, too strong for any foreign Force to insult, and too strong to leave Room for the Hopes of a Party, who in our Divisions only hope for their Advantage.

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